Proposals for National Highways in Bihar

†2452. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has submitted new proposals of National Highways to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the numbers of new proposals received till January, 2003; and

(c) the number of proposals sanctioned till January, 2003 and the number of proposals pending for the last many years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 58 proposals for declaration of State Roads as National Highways were received from the State Government of Bihar.

(c) All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways have been returned to State Government of Bihar for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited length of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban if lifted.

High Security Registration Number Plates

2453. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 149 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 2003 and state:

(a) the reasons impelling Government to defer the date of implementation of the High Security Registration Number Plates;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that some States have requested Government for deferment of the project for at least 6—12 months on the ground of financial constraints; and

(c) if so, the names of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The date of implementation for High Security Registration Plate for the new motor vehicles has been postponed to 1st January, 2004 because at the recently held Transport Development Council meeting held on 16.1.2003 almost all States stated that they need more time to be ready for implementing the scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Roads in Hilly Areas

†2454. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petrol and diesel worth ten thousand crores of rupees is being wasted each year in the country due to movement on long, rough and rugged, miserable and circuitous roads;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that even today people of hilly areas of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh have to walk for miles due to lack of enough link roads;

(c) the steps taken by Government for connecting link roads of villages of hilly areas to major roads and widening them and converting them into metalled roads; and

(d) the details of works carried out in both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.